

Andrew Jackson to Robert Hays, August 24, 1801, from Correspondence of Andrew Jackson. Edited by John Spencer Bassett.

Knoxville, August 24, 1801.

D'r Sir, On Saturday I reached this place, all well. You may say to Stockley Donelson, Mrs. Donelson is waiting for her father, and is as yet without advice from him. This morning I waited upon Mr. Joseph Green and shew him your letter. he states the receipt of \$300 on your ac'pt, paid to your order \$20 to Ashburn, that he hold Ashburns order before the Marshal and Ashburns receipt for the amount of the ballance of his pay—that he has paid to James Wood Lackey the sum of Eighty Dollars and has his receipt for his pay for taking the Enumeration for Blount and Sevier Counties, 1 and Expresses his wish to retain those sums out of the money in his hand. I told him I was not authorised, to do any such thing, but would let the money remain in his hand, untill I received an answer from you and would be guided by your instructions. write me, immediately on the receipt of this letter and direct it to Jonesborough and put it in the Post office, and if it is your directions I will take the money immediately out of his hands or otherwise as you shall direct. I am solicited to offer for congress as representative. will you be good enough to give me your advice as a friend upon that subject, whether I ought or ought not. I have revolved the subject over in my mind, and the objections, on one hand, and the solicitations on the other, poise the thing so neatly that I cannot determine the question whether it is better to offer or not. I wish therefore your advice upon this subject,

1 Census of 1800.

to reach me at Jonesborough, as I have said to the people I will answer them at Knox Superior Court. I am in Possession of a verry independent office, but I sink money—the salary is too low—another thing I dread the successor of Mr. Roane. it is well known I

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cannot expect much beneficial aid from the Talents of Judge Campbell, altho an agreeable companion, and should one be appointed whose Legal abilities were not superior to ours the responsibility on me would be too great and perhaps frequent divisions make the office disagreeable. My real wish would be, would my circumstances permit, to retire from the busy scenes of the world, and entirely domesticate myself, but I am got a little involved and untill I extricate myself must give up that Idea, and I fear that a seat in congress would not with my family be a profitable employment, and I am determined if I should offer and be elected to take them with me. the Judiciary scar[c]ely bears my expence and the assembly cannot add more to it than \$100 per annum, but perhaps it would be better to have that secure, than to beat upon the fluctuating waves of popularity. with my best wishes for the welfare and happiness of you and your family, I am yrs. sincerely